

Joint Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
2011 Legislative Session

January 26, 2011
Long Term Care Division Public Hearing

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Area VIII Agency on Aging serving Cascade County has provided several services for me over the past 20 years. One of the most important services has been the Senior and Medical Transportation program.

I have no family in Great Falls and no assistance to get around town to my appointments. I am a 90 year old diabetic and do not drive. I still live by myself but depend on the Aging Services Senior Transportation program to make medical appointments and get to the grocery store. The program also gets me out of the apartment to go have some lunch at the Great Falls Senior Center or attend RSVP and Foster Grandparents activities.

Sincerely,

Anne Aiken HSE

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Impact of Proposed Budget Cuts for Area VIII AoA Cascade County Aging Services

Home-Delivered Meals:

The loss of 25,000 meals in Cascade County, resulting in the creation of a waiting list for meals to these most vulnerable elders. The Senior Nutrition program is currently preparing/delivering between 310 and 325 home delivered meals daily. The Congregate program is serving over 50 per day at the Senior Centers.

Congregate Meals:

The loss of 6,250 congregate meals in Cascade County resulting in the establishment of a waiting list for meals.

Area VIII / CCAS Senior Nutrition Operations:

Aging equipment would not be replaced on the current replacement cycle (2-6 years), some equipment could not be replaced at all. The expense of repairing aging equipment would rise.

Senior Center Reductions:

The 6 Cascade County Senior Centers currently receive a portion of their operations budget from Area VIII / Cascade County Aging Services. Financial support would be reduced 25%, thus forcing Senior Centers to: increase membership dues; charge for services that are currently offered free; reduce hours operation. Additionally, loss of hours will result in approximately 2 FTE reductions at the Centers. Senior transportation would be curtailed due to reduced hours at the Centers as well.

Great Falls Senior Center: Impact would be a reduction of \$800.00 per month. Loss of ½ FTE

Centerville Senior Center: Impact of ~ \$150.00 per month. Loss of ¼ FTE.

Monarch Neihart Senior Center: Impact of ~ \$75.00 per month. Loss of ¼ FTE

Sun River Valley Senior Center: Impact of ~ \$125.00 per month. Loss of ¼ FTE

Cascade Senior Center: Impact of ~ \$125.00 per month. Loss of ¼ FTE

Belt Senior Center: Impact of ~\$200.00 per month. Loss of ½ FTE